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Front Cover

Located in Pickens County, Table Rock State Park was developed by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) during the 1930's. Table Rock was home to one of the State's first formal nature education programs and now serves as a trailhead for the 80-mile long Foothills Trail along the Blue Ridge Escarpment. Many of its structures are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Back Cover

Located in Sumter, South Carolina, Swan Lake-Iris Gardens began in 1927 as a private fishing retreat for Hamilton Carr Bland, a local businessman. Today, Swan Lake is the only public park in the United States to feature all eight swan species. Canada geese, mallards, egrets, herons, and anhingas also call the garden home. Swan Lake is also home to some of the nation's most intensive plantings of Japanese Iris and boasts many other attractions, including an abundance of flowers and a boardwalk where visitors may walk through a cypress swamp.



The South Carolina State Park Service is celebrating 75 years of preserving and protecting some of South Carolina's most valued and fascinating natural, cultural, and recreational resources. Today, the South Carolina State Park Service is part of the South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism, and operates 47 parks comprising nearly 90,000 acres of diverse landscape.

*Cover photos courtesy of
Sam Holland*

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Abbreviations	622
Boards, Commissions, and Committees, S.C.	433
Clerks and Attaches:	
Both Houses	200
House	196
Senate	191
Committees, Standing:	
House	182
Senate	70
Congressional Members, S.C.	394
Constitutional and Statutory Provisions	4
Counties in S.C., Formation of	406
Officers	411
Districts:	
House	144
Senate	48
Executive Department	334
The Governor	15
Governors of S.C.	609
The House of Representatives	81
Judicial Department:	
Circuit Court	359
Court of Appeals	352
Family Court	386
Supreme Court	346
Legislative Audit Council	201
Legislative Council	200
Legislative Printing, Information & Technology Systems ..	202
The Lieutenant Governor	16
Lieutenant Governors of S.C.	615
Newspaper, TV, and Radio Representatives	204
Party Organizations	599
Rules:	
House	263
Senate	206
Symbols & Emblems	Appendix A
The Senate	18
Speakers of S.C.	619
U.S. Departments in S.C.	575